

## CORNISH CHURCHES IN THE DECORATED STYLE, c. 1260–1350

Although most Cornish churches are mainly or entirely in the Perpendicular style, there is more Dec work in Cornwall than is often appreciated, & any judgment of the achievements of this period needs to bear in mind the fundamental point that the most important work has been destroyed.

### *Monastic sites with important building programmes in this period*

The two most ambitious works of the period were those at Launceston Priory and Glasney College, Penryn. Both have been demolished and are known only from excavated remains, including their architectural fragments.

**Glasney** was closely related to the Exeter Cathedral, both in design and building stones, including work closely related to two major national figures: THOMAS WITNEY and WILLIAM JOY.

**Launceston Priory** shows more mixed connections. The rib profiles are close to work at Bristol, the likely source of architect, since this was a house of the Augustinian Canons, but the choir screen and floor-tiles are Exeter works, and Exeter was surely the source of its remarkably complex tracery.

### *Parish churches with stylistic links to Exeter Cathedral*

**St Ive** Closest and perhaps the most important survival, probably resulting from the connections of Bartholomew de Castro, the ‘right-hand-man’ of Bishop Grandisson. Related to this, a group of works, mainly in south-east Cornwall with closely related features of c. 1325–50: **South Hill, Shevioc, Tywardreath St Germans and St Michael Penkevil**. Also linked to this group: the ?shrine arch at **St Neot**; **St Columb Major** – surprisingly ambitious, the caps very similar to those at Exeter Cathedral

### *Other parish churches with ambitious work*

**Lostwithiel**, now the most impressive example of the Dec style in Cornwall.

**Bodmin ?charnel chapel**

Other more modest works, rather overlooked, include **Saltash**

**Spires** - **St Enodoc, Cubert, Rame, St Minver, Gerrans, etc.**

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allan, J.P. 2009 'Notes towards an architectural history of Launceston Priory', Exeter Archaeological Report, 09.58.
- 2017 'Exeter Cathedral and church architecture in Cornwall in the early 14th century' in Holden, P. (ed.) *New Research on Cornish Architecture: Celebrating Pevsner* (London: F. Boutle), 49–64.
- & Blaylock, S. 2016 'The architectural fragments' in Cole, D. 'Excavations at Glasney College, Penryn', *Cornish Archaeol.* **55**, 89–100.
- Beacham, P. and Pevsner, N. 2014 *The Buildings of England: Cornwall* (3rd edition), New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Cole, D. 2016 'Excavations at Glasney College, Penryn', *Cornish Archaeol.* **55**, 65–117.
- Daniel, S.V. n.d. [c.1972?] *The Story of Cornwall's Churches*, Truro: Tor Mark Press.
- Gossip, J. 2002 *St Thomas' Priory, Launceston, Cornwall*, Cornwall Archaeological Unit Report, 2002R004.
- Henderson, C. 1964 *Cornish Church Guide and Parochial History of Cornwall* (reprint of first edition of 1925), Truro: Bradford Barton.
- Hingeston-Randolph, F.C. 1894–9 *The Register of John de Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter, Part I* (London, 1894), *Part II* (London, 1897): 1331–1360; *Part III* (Exeter, 1899): 1360–1369.
- Mattingly, J. 2005 *Looking at Cornish Churches*, Redruth: Tor Mark Press.
- Orme, N. 2007 *Cornwall and the Cross, Christianity 500–1560*, Chichester: Phillimore.
- 2010 *Victoria County History, Cornwall II: Religious History to 1560*, Woodbridge: Institute of Historical Research/Boydell and Brewer.
- Peter, O.B. 1889 *Launceston Priory: the Substance of a Lecture, 7th January, 1889*, (Launceston).
- 1892 'Excavations on the Site of Launceston Priory', *J. Roy. Institution Cornwall* **11**, 1–6.
- Street, G.E. 1853 'On the distinctive features of the Middle Pointed Churches of Cornwall', *Transactions of the Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society* (1853), ser.1, vol.4, 86–102.

Caption:

Window tracery. (a) Exeter Cathedral, west window; (b–d) St Ives; (e–g) Shevioc; (h) South Hill; (i) St Germans; (j) Tywardreath; (k–l) St Michael Penkevil.

